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WE understand that a Committee has been formed for the purpose of raising subscriptions to be devoted to the erection of a memorial to the late Mr. Alfred Mellon. What this memorial is to be is not stated; but funds are solicited, and Mr. Benedict has been appointed treasurer.

THE "Six Lectures on Harmony," delivered at the Royal Institution by Mr. G. A. Macfarren, and just published in one volume by Messrs. Longman, has come to hand too late for us to do any justice to the subject in our present number.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

\* \* \* Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence; otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance.

We beg to remind our correspondents that all notices of country concerts, whether written or extracted from newspapers, must be accompanied by the name and address of the person who sends them.

Our correspondents will greatly oblige by writing all names as clearly as possible, as we cannot be responsible for any mistake which may occur.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Notice is sent to all Subscribers whose payment (in advance) is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscription is not renewed. We again remind those who are disappointed in obtaining back numbers, that although the music pages are always stereotyped, only a sufficient quantity of the rest of the paper is printed to supply the current sale.

Copyist.—The best way would be for our correspondent to offer his services to Choral Societies by a written application.

#### Brief Summary of Country News.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed in this Summary; as all the notices are either collected from the local papers or supplied to us by occasional correspondents.

**BEDFORD.**—The Members of the Bedford Amateur Musical Society gave their first Concert of the Season, on the 30th April. The first part was devoted to Mendelssohn's *Lauda Sion*, and the second part to a miscellaneous selection. The singers numbered about 100, and the band 18, all of whom proved themselves thoroughly efficient in the arduous duties allotted to them; which considering that the Society was only formed at the commencement of the present year, is certainly creditable in the highest degree. Mr. Diemer (who has bestowed the utmost attention upon the training of the choir) conducted. Miss Barker presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. Rose at the harmonium.

**BEDALE.**—Mr. Speight, Organist of the Parish Church, gave his annual concert at the New Assembly Rooms, Bedale, on Wednesday the 24th April, under distinguished patronage. The principal vocalists were Miss Wheeler, soprano, Miss Nalton, contralto, Mr. Pickles, tenor, and Mr. W. C. Bell, basso; with an efficient chorus, selected from the members of the Bradford Festival Choral Society. Mr. Speight and Mr. Moorhouse, of Bradford, accompanied. Mr. Wilcock, honorary secretary of the Bradford Festival Choral Society, was musical director. There was a large and fashionable audience, and the concert was eminently successful. An evening concert was given at Leyburn by Mr. Speight, and the same vocalists, on Thursday the 25th, but owing to some local causes, the attendance was not so numerous as could have been desired.

**BLANDFORD, Dorset.**—The inaugural Concerts of the newly formed Blandford Sacred Harmonic Society, took place in that town on Tuesday April 30. The principal vocalists were Miss Banks, and Messrs. Westmoreland, Kenningham, and Stanley from Salisbury Cathedral, and the choruses were sung by members of the society. The orchestra was composed of performers from the Italian opera, and from Southampton, Winchester and Portsmouth, with Mrs. Edwards at the harmonium. The work chosen was Haydn's *Creation*, the performance of which was in every respect highly creditable to all concerned. Mr. Spinney conducted.

**BRADFORD.**—On Monday evening, the 6th ult., the Bradford Festival Choral Society gave its First Concert of the season in St. George's Hall. The first part was entirely devoted to Romberg's *Lay of the Bell*: the solos being well sustained by Miss Wheeler, Mr. Pickles, Mr. Rushworth, and Mr. W. C. Bell, the latter gentleman, who was in excellent voice, giving the part of the master bell-founder in good style.

**BRISTOL.**—Mr. Leigh Wilson's Concert, in the Victoria Rooms on the 30th April, was numerous and fashionably attended. The singing of Mr. Leigh Wilson appears to have been received with the most marked demonstrations of approval by the audience; and Mademoiselle Enequist, who was a stranger to the Bristol and Clifton public, also achieved a remarkable success. The other vocalists were Miss Julia Elton, and Mr. Lewis Thomas; and the instrumentalists were Miss M. Schiller (pianoforte) Madlle. Bertha Brousil (violin) and Mr. Reynolds (cornet). Mr. E. M. Lott accompanied the vocal music on the pianoforte.

**BURSLEM.**—The Potteries Tonic Sol-Fa Prize Choirs, conducted by Mr. Powell, held their Eighth Annual Celebration of the return of Spring, on the 2nd ult. The orchestra was decorated with wild flowers and flowering plants, and the Town Hall was filled with a highly respectable and appreciative audience. In the first part Dr. Spark, organist of the Town Hall, &c., Leeds, played a selection of pieces on the organ, and accompanied the choir in Handel's "Nightingale," and "Hailstone" choruses. The second part consisted of Dr. Spark's "Ode to Labour," excellently sung by the Prize Choristers and accompanied by the composer himself.

**BURWASH, SUSSEX.**—The Annual May-Day Concerts were held in the School-rooms, under the direction of the Rev. J. C. Egerton (the Rector) who was assisted by several talented local amateur friends, and Miss Annie Barton, Miss Fanny Barton, and Mr. F. A. Bridge, from London. The Concerts, as usual, passed off with great success, the rooms, both in the morning and evening, being crowded.

**BYTHORN, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.**—On Thursday evening, April 25th, a performance of Handel's *Messiah* was given in the School-room, by the members of the Raunds Harmonic Society, to a very crowded and respectable audience. The songs and choruses were well sustained, and the applause each piece met with fully proved the satisfaction of the audience. The principal vocalists were Miss Pettitt, Miss Bell, Messrs. T. Nobles, J. K. Smith, W. Nobles, W. Hall, G. Warner, W. Skinner, J. Fentlow, T. Bell; instrumentalists: Messrs. W. Nobles, T. Lovell, J. Lovell, W. Fisher, J. R. Colson, and W. Pettitt. Mr. O. Smith, presided at the harmonium.

**CAMBRIDGE.**—A Miscellaneous Concert was given by the Pitt Press Reading and Musical Union on the 1st ult., in the Guildhall. The Society consists of the *employés* of the Pitt Press, and this being their first public performance, they were kindly assisted by the Cambridge Rifle Corps Band, and a few friends. Several songs, glees, and recitations were given during the evening; and a prologue, written for the occasion, by Mr. Reynolds, was spoken, by Mr. Haynes. Between the parts Tennyson's "May Queen" was read by the Rev. W. M. Campion, B.D., Fellow and Tutor of Queen's College. The proceedings appeared to give much pleasure to a crowded audience.

**CANTERBURY.**—The Harmonic Union, by an excellent performance of *Elijah* on the 9th ult., has proved that, even if the Society cease to exist from want of patronage, it has every claim to the support of those lovers of good music who, in a city like Canterbury, ought to be able to muster in sufficient numbers to uphold the true interests of art. The Oratorio was in every respect well given, not only by the principal vocalists—Miss Robertine Henderson, Miss Palmer, Mr. Wilbye Cooper, and Mr. Rhodes—but by the orchestra and chorus, which, under the able conductorship of Mr. Longhurst, performed their arduous duties in a highly satisfactory manner. We are sorry to say that the attendance was by no means numerous, scarcely five hundred persons being present in a room which was prepared to accommodate between seven and eight hundred.

**CARLOW.**—An Evening Concert was given by the Harmonic Society of this town on the 16th ult., under most distinguished patronage. The members who took part in the performance consisted of the *élite* of town and country, under the directorship of E. K. Atkinson, Esq., the talented organist; and a chorus of more than sixty voices sang in good style selections from the Operas *Preciosa*, *Troatore*, &c. The concert was highly appreciated by a crowded audience.

**CHATHAM.**—The Lecture Hall has been occupied during the past month by several concert parties, which have been generally successful. The following are the names of the artists, whose services were retained for the respective programmes, viz., Miss Grace Armytage and Madame Somerville, "Mackney," and Mr. H. C. Sanders, in the vocal department, and Madlle. Bertha Brousil, first violin, Madlle. Cecile Brousil, second violin and piano, Madame Antonette Grant Brousil, piano, Monsieur Alois Brousil, first violin and tenor, and Mr. Henry Nicholson, flute. Of these, the violin solos of Madlle. Bertha Brousil were the most successful.

**CHICHESTER.**—On Tuesday, the 7th ult., a Morning Concert of Chamber Music was given in the Assembly Rooms, by Mr. Thorne, organist of the Cathedral; when he was assisted by Messrs. Ries, Faque, Goodbum, and Miss Julia Elton. The chief points of interest in the programme were the grand Trio in D minor, by Mendelssohn, and Beethoven's Sonata in G. for the Pianoforte and Violin (Op. 30) which was well performed by MM. Thorne and Ries. M. Faque also played Boccherini's Sonata for the violoncello, and several songs were given with much effect. The room was only half filled, but the audience evidently appreciated the music performed.

**CIRENCESTER.**—On Thursday, the 16th ult., the Cirencester Choral Society gave a performance of Haydn's *Creation* at the Corn Hall. The principal vocalists were Miss C. Westbrook, soprano, Mr. Green, tenor, Messrs. Brandon and Ruperti, bass. The band was selected from Bristol, Gloucester, Cheltenham, and Stroud; Messrs. Chew and Woodward being leaders. Mr. E. Brind conducted. Several amateurs belonging to the Society took leading parts in a very satisfactory way. The choruses throughout were rendered with admirable precision, and Mr. Brind deserves every

credit for the pains he has taken in bringing the members of the Cirencester Choral Society to such a high state of perfection.

**COLNBROOK.**—Mr. B. Manders, organist of St. Thomas', gave a vocal and instrumental concert at the Public Rooms, on Thursday, the 2nd ult. He was assisted by the following vocalists: Miss E. Lazarus, R.A.M., Miss Hudson, Miss Lazarus, and gentlemen of Trinity Church Choir, Windsor. Also by the orchestral band of the Philharmonic Society, Uxbridge. The concert was conducted by Mr. J. F. Bridge, organist of Trinity Church, Windsor, Miss E. Lazarus and Mr. B. Manders presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. J. F. Bridge at the harmonium. This concert was a decided success; and great credit is due to Mr. Bridge for the manner in which he conducted the performance.

**CORK.**—The Antient Concert Society of this City gave its first concert since its recent revival, on Thursday evening, the 9th ult., under the conductorship of Mr. John M'Carthy, on which occasion was performed the *Creation*. The proceeds were in aid of the funds of the North Infirmary. The performers numbered 160. The Society was assisted by Miss Anna Hiles, of London, soprano, Mr. Baker, of the Cathedral here, and Mr. O'Donoghue, organist of Cloyne Cathedral, tenors, and Messrs. Sullivan and O'Mahony of this city, basses. Miss Hiles acquitted herself in a very finished manner, and made a good impression. Mr. O'Donoghue sang with good taste and care, and Messrs. Sullivan and O'Mahony also contributed much to the success of the performance. The choruses, with a few exceptions, were rendered with considerable precision, and the orchestra was very efficient, under the able leadership of Mr. Coghlan. Mr. J. T. Sullivan presided at the organ, and played with excellent effect. The concert was highly successful, and reflected the utmost credit upon the abilities of Mr. M'Carthy.

**DONCASTER.**—A Concert of vocal and instrumental music was given by Mr. Eyre, choirmaster of the Parish Church, on Easter Tuesday. The performers were the Scott Family, Mr. G. Prior, and Mr. Eyre. A large and fashionable audience attended, including the principal nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood. Both vocal and instrumental portions of the programme were given with taste and precision, and the efforts of the performers were rewarded with repeated encores.

**DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.**—The Douglas Choral Society having been re-organized, has given four concerts during the past winter season, the last of which took place in the Victoria Hall, on Tuesday the 9th ult., under the direction of the society's conductor, Mr. J. F. Cottier. The band and chorus numbered ninety performers. The society is yet in its infancy, and much therefore remains to be done, but considering the shortness of the time for practice, the performances, consisting chiefly of miscellaneous selections, both sacred and secular, have been really very creditable, and the members of the society hope to resume their performances with renewed spirit next winter.

**DOVER.**—The Musical Union under the very able direction of Mr. Payn, gave a concert on the 1st ult., in which the powers of the choir were most satisfactorily tested. The programme was well selected, and contained amongst other choral music, Mendelssohn's "Lark," Müller's "Spring's delights," Bishop's Tramp chorus, and the well-known music to *Macbeth*, strangely enough wedded to new words, and called the "Festival of Spring." How Mr. Payn can reconcile this strange proceeding to his musical conscience we are at a loss to conceive; but in the account of the concert which has been forwarded to us, it appears to have been well received by the audience, and success, like charity, we presume, covers a multitude of sins. Miss Armytage, Messrs. Payn and Gough were the principal solo vocalists, and Mr. Jarrett accompanied with much taste and feeling.

**DUBLIN.**—The members of St George's Choral Union, at the invitation of the Great Southern and Western Railway Company, gave a concert lately in the reading room in connection with the works at Inchicore, for the benefit of the Institution. The programme consisted of selections from the works of Weber, Wallace, Bishop, Stevenson, Rossini, &c., all of which were very creditably rendered. The band connected with the company's works played an effective selection of Irish airs, &c. The entertainment proved a decided success. Mr. J. A. Phillips conducted with his usual ability.

**DUMFRIES.**—The Dumfries and Maxwelltown Juvenile Musical Association gave a Choral entertainment in the Mechanics' Hall, on the evening of Saturday, the 18th ult. It was most disheartening to the Directors and the Members to see so small an attendance, and it is to be hoped that brighter days may be in store for the Association next season. The Chorus numbered about 30 voices, and was accompanied by an effective band of wind and stringed instruments, led by Herr Ludwig, Bandmaster of the Scottish Borderers. Mr. J. G. Gooden was conductor, and Mr. Hirst presided at the harmonium and piano. The first part of the programme contained selections from the *Messiah* and *Judas Maccabæus*, all of which were well rendered. It was marvellous that the "Hallelujah Chorus" from the *Messiah* should have been so steadily taken up by an association, the great majority of the members of which are mere juveniles. The second part of the programme contained a miscellaneous selection. Such a concert has been rarely given in Dumfries, and it is a pity that the Directors should be losers by it, as we are sorry to say that the proceeds of the entertainment will not nearly meet the expense.

**DUNDEE.**—An Organ recital was given in the Kinnauld Hall, on the 1st ult., by H. S. Oakeley, Esq., Professor of Music in the University of Edinburgh, when a programme of the highest class was provided. The Hall was filled by a numerous and highly appreciative audience, who fully endorsed the eulogiums recently passed by the Edinburgh press upon the Professor's inaugural performances there. Between the parts the Dundee Amateur Choral Union sang several choruses, &c., from *Judas Maccabæus*, Mr. S. C. Hirst fulfilling the post of organist, and Mr. H. Nagel that of conductor.—A *CONVERSAZIONE*, in connection with the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Congregational Union of Scotland, took place in the Kinnauld Hall on the 2nd ult. A very good selection of music was excellently performed by Mr. W. N. Ward on the organ; and the anthems were sung by the choir of Ward Chapel, assisted by friends from the other churches.

**DURHAM.**—The Members of the Glee and Madrigal Union, consisting of the principal singers in the Cathedral choir, gave a concert in the Town Hall, on the 14th ult. They were assisted by Miss Anna Hiles, Messrs. Price and David Lambert, who acquitted themselves exceedingly well in the solo music allotted to them, Miss Hiles, especially, giving the Cavatina, "When the Cuckoo comes again," and the song, "Where the bee sucks," with good feeling and execution. The duties of pianist were ably sustained by Mr. G. H. F. Orwin.

**ECCELES, MANCHESTER.**—The Fifth Annual Festival of the Eccles Church Choral Union took place in the Parish Church, on Saturday, the 18th ult., and was in every respect highly successful. As a proof of the advantage of these associations, it may be mentioned that, although the music undertaken on this occasion was of a far more difficult nature than that of last year, it was sung throughout with less indecision and much greater refinement. The "Magnificat" and "Nunc dimittis" were by Dr. Clarke Whitfield; and the Anthem was Dr. Elvey's "I was glad." The whole of the musical responsibility rested upon Mr. Meadowcroft (the choirmaster of the association) who, with the choir, may be congratulated upon the successful issue of their labours. The sermon, a most eloquent and impressive one, was preached by the Rev. J. Barclay, Vicar of Runcorn.

**EDINBURGH.**—On the 23rd April a concert of sacred music, in aid of the funds of the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, in Edinburgh, which has recently been extending its operations, was given in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Chapel, Broughton-street. The artists were Mr. J. G. Inkersall, Miss Harriet Lindley, Mr. W. Rutherford, Mr. J. P. McHardy, Mr. J. Caven; and the chorus was formed by the choirs of St. Mary's and other chapels in the town. Mr. Bridgman presided at the organ. The first part of the programme was devoted to the performance of Haydn's Mass, No. 16, and the second part consisted of miscellaneous selections from Handel, Mozart, and other composers. Of these the most striking were the solo and chorus, "Laudate," Zingarelli, Mr. Inkersall taking the solo, Hummel's "Alma Virgo," by Miss Lindley and chorus, and Gounod's "Nazareth," by Mr. Rutherford. There was a pretty good attendance, including a number of the Roman Catholic clergy of the city.

**ENFIELD HIGHWAY.**—On the 29th April, a Concert was given in connection with the Literary and Scientific Institution as above, under the direction of Mr. F. A. Bridge. Vocalists, Miss Annie Laroche, Miss M. Perfect Harding, Mr. G. Colquhoun, Mr. J. Brown, Mr. Henry Thomas, and Mr. F. A. Bridge. Pianist, Miss E. Stirling.

**EVESHAM.**—On Wednesday the 1st ult. (SS. Philip and James's day), the fourth annual Festival of the associated choirs of the archdeaconry of Worcester, was celebrated in the church of St. Lawrence. The preces, responses, and litany were sung to the music of Tallis. The chants were selected from the Anglican and Worcester Chant-books; the anthem was one specially written for the occasion by Dr. Stainer, "Sing a song of praise." The introit was the hymn "Jesu, the very thought of thee," sung to a tune composed by Dr. Stainer, from the "Supplemental Hymn and Tune Book." The hymn before sermon in the morning was "Rejoice, the Lord is King," sung to Gossal, from Chambers' Parish Tune Book. The Kyrie was from Dr. Monk's Union Service in A. In the afternoon the hymns were "Jesus lives! no longer now," sung to Dr. Gauntlett's tune in "Hymns Ancient and Modern," and "All glory, laud, and honour," to the well-known tune of Teschner. The anthem was the same as that sung at morning service. Morning prayer was sung by the Rev. Wm. Rayson, minor canon of Worcester Cathedral, hon. secretary of the association; the litany by the Rev. R. Brown, curate of Evesham; and the communion service by the Rev. Matthew Wood, vicar of Evesham. Evening prayer was sung by the Rev. R. Brown. The performance was, upon the whole, highly successful. In the afternoon, the anthem was conducted from the chancel by the Rev. R. Brown. The best performance of the day was the singing of Dr. Stainer's beautiful tune "Sudeley," in which, though new to them, the whole congregation joined *con amore*. A sudden domestic affliction preventing Dr. Stainer from presiding at the organ, his place was most kindly taken by Dr. S. S. Wesley, of Gloucester Cathedral, whose masterly execution and consummate taste, it is needless to say, was a rich treat to all who could appreciate them.

**GLOUCESTER.**—A Concert in aid of the furnishing fund of the building lately erected (chiefly through the exertions of Dr. Gambier Parry, of Highnam) for a children's Hospital, lately took place at the Shire Hall. The chorus, which was strong and

effective, was chiefly composed of the members of Dr. Wesley's class and of the choral society. Mr. H. C. Deacon was the pianist, Mr. E. Brind played the harmonium, Mr. Woodward was the leader of the band, and Mr. Hubert Parry the conductor. A feature of the concert was a new cantata, composed by Mr. Hubert Parry, Mus. B. (son of Dr. Gambier Parry) which was highly successful. The profits of the concert were about £100.

**GOLCAR.**—On Tuesday evening, the 23rd April, the members of the Golcar Choral Society gave their last concert for the season, in the National School-room, Golcar Hill. The vocalists were Miss Whitham, Messrs. Schofield, Duxbury, and Hinchcliffe. Mr. J. Hirst acted as leader, and Mr. H. Pearson conducted; Mr. J. E. Pearson presiding at the pianoforte. The chorus contained upwards of 50 performers. The first part consisted of selections from the *Creation*, several of the pieces being admirably performed, especially the solo and chorus "The marvellous works," "With verdure clad," "Now heaven in fullest glory," and the concluding chorus, "Achieved is the glorious work." The second part comprised a miscellaneous selection. The concert concluded with the National Anthem.

**GRANTHAM.**—On Thursday, the 25th April, two Amateur Concerts (morning and evening) of vocal and instrumental music, were given in this town, in aid of the Church Restoration Fund, under the honorary direction of Dr. Dixon, the organist of the church. Lady John Manners, Mrs. Broke Turner, Miss Talfour, Colonel Stuart Wortley, the Rev. Clement Smith, with many other ladies and gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood took part, assisted by some of Dr. Dixon's pupils, giving the greatest satisfaction to the large and fashionable audiences that attended the performances. After all expenses were paid, the handsome sum of £100 was realized.

**GREENWICH.**—Mr. Walter Miller, Mus. Bac., Oxon, gave a Morning Concert on Saturday, the 27th April, entirely of Classical Music. He was assisted in the instrumental department by Messrs. Ries, Kichler, Broadelt, and Daubert, and Miss Baillie and Miss Fosbroke were the vocalists. Mr. Miller, who is a promising pianist, played the portion of the programme entrusted to him in a most intelligent manner, and his performances appeared to give great satisfaction.

**HALIFAX.**—The Haley Hill Choral Society gave a very successful performance on Friday evening, the 10th ult. The first part consisted of Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum*, the choruses in which were very well given; and favourable mention must be made of Mr. Hoyle, who made his *débüt* as a bass singer. The second part was Sterndale Bennett's "May Queen," which on the whole was well sung, the band playing more quietly in the accompaniments than usual. The principal vocalists were Miss Amy Empsall, Mrs. Empsall, Mr. Riley, and Mr. Briggs, who sustained their parts in a highly creditable manner. The choruses were executed with commendable precision; and the concert was received with much applause. Mr. Whitaker conducted.

**HEREFORD.**—The Easter special meeting of the Hereford Choral Society, was held at the College Hall on the 25th April. The great feature of the evening was the performance of Cherubini's Requiem Mass, in C minor, which was given for the first time in Hereford. Nothing but really hard work could have secured so perfect an interpretation of this great composition as was given on this occasion, and we congratulate both Mr. Townshend Smith and the members of the choir on the successful result of what we are certain must have been mutually a labour of love. Every movement went well, but we must particularly instance the "Dies Irae," which although enormously difficult for both orchestra and vocalists, was sung and played to perfection. The second part of the concert, selected from the sacred works of Handel, Spohr, and Mendelssohn, was equally entitled to commendation; and too much praise cannot be awarded to Mr. Townshend Smith, whose classical taste and untiring zeal in the cause of good music, not only ensure an excellent programme, but a thoroughly satisfactory rendering of every work performed.

**HULL.**—A Society has been formed here, under the title of the Drypool Choral Society, for the practice and performance of Part-music. Mr. William Doughty, of that town, has undertaken the conductorship. The first meeting was held on the 2nd of April, when there was an exceedingly good attendance.

**HYTHE, KENT.**—The members of the choir of the parish church have presented their organist and choirmaster, Mr. Philip Klitz, with a handsome clock. The presentation was made at the conclusion of the evening practice, on the 17th ult., by the Rev. B. C. Sangar, the incumbent, who spoke in high terms of the services of Mr. Klitz, and of the rapid improvement of the choir under his direction.

**ISLINGTON.**—The Canonbury Vocal Union concluded its present season on Thursday, the 9th ult., with a public rehearsal. The first part of the programme consisted exclusively of sacred music, and the second part of an excellent selection of Madrigals and Part-Songs. The conductor was Mr. E. Froust, B.A.

**KNUTSFORD.**—A Concert under the auspices of the Knutsford Choral Society, was given in the new Assembly-room of the George Hotel, on the 7th ult., which was extremely well attended. The first part of the programme contained Mozart's motett "O God, when thou appearest," Mendelssohn's psalm, "Hear my prayer," and Bierey's Cantata, "Faith and Adoration," all of which

were rendered with a precision and musicianlike feeling highly creditable to the members of the Society, and to their conductor, Mr. Henry Hiles. The second part consisted of a miscellaneous selection. Two of the part-songs, "Twilight dews," and "A Finland love song," the composition of Mr. Hiles, were enthusiastically encored. The concert was a decided success.

**LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.**—The Annual Festival of Parochial Choirs in connection with the "Church Music Society for the Archdeaconry of Sudbury" (West Suffolk) was held at Lavenham Church, on Thursday, the 23rd ult. Twenty-five choirs attended, making a total of 560 voices. A new organ, by Messrs. Conacher and Co., of Huddersfield, was also opened at the same time, which gave additional interest to the proceedings. The Services were accompanied throughout by the Choirmaster, Mr. Thomas Smith, of Bury St. Edmund's. The anthem was Farrent's "Lord for thy tender mercies' sake," the first anthem introduced at these Festivals, and it was gratifying to find that the leads were all taken up effectively and promptly. The processional hymn "Children of the Heavenly King," was sung by the surpliced choir in procession from the vestry, but was not so successful as might have been wished. A noticeable feature in the afternoon service was a hymn sung to a double chant, the rhythm of the tune being made to give way entirely to the common sense reading of the words. The Rev. W. Borrow, Vicar of Heigham (inspector to the Society) conducted with his usual ability.

**LEEK.**—The Fourth Concert of the Amateur Musical Society, on the 30th April, was exceedingly well attended. Mr. Coulson, of Derby, sang Klücken's "Twilight is dark'ning," and two other favorite tenor songs very tastefully, and the members of the Society gave a selection of songs, duets, part-songs, and pianoforte pieces, and the "Macbeth Music," closing with Leslie's "National Anthem." The concert was generally considered a decided improvement upon its predecessors. Miss Andrew was accompanist, and Mr. Powell conductor.

**LEICESTER.**—The Amateur Harmonic Society gave its annual concert, by invitation to their friends, on Thursday evening, the 9th ult. The first part of the programme consisted of Mozart's *Ave Verum*, Gounod's *St. Cecilia Mass*, and Mendelssohn's *Ave Maria*, all of which were effectively and accurately rendered. The second part included Mendelssohn's *Walpurgis night*, and also contained some well selected choral pieces. Mr. G. A. Löhr was the conductor.

**LEOMINSTER.**—The fine organ in the Priory Church, after having been removed from the east gallery, and undergone extensive repairs and additions by Mr. J. W. Warman (of Faringdon, Berks), was reopened on Easter-day, by the recently-appointed organist, Mr. Martin Bradley, M.C.O. The musical performances of the day were of the most satisfactory character, and the effect of the instrument in its new situation is very telling. The full organ of this instrument, as restored, is a complete demonstration of the superiority of the old G range compared with the modern organ curtailed at C without the disposing of an adequate pedale.

**LIVERPOOL.**—The Sixth Concert for the year of the Philharmonic Society was given on the 7th ult., the principal performers being Madame Maria Vilda, Signor Fancelli, and Madlle. Anna Mehlig, solo pianoforte. The most important instrumental works on this occasion were Spohr's Sinfonia, No. 1, in E flat, Mendelssohn's Overture, "The Isles of Fingal," and Hummel's Pianoforte Concerto in B minor, which was admirably performed by Madlle. Anna Mehlig. Madame Maria Vilda gave with great refinement and expression, "Casta Diva," and the great scena from *Der Freischütz*, and also took part in the duet from *Lucrezia Borgia*, with Signor Fancelli, "Che veggio?" which was well sung by both artists.

**MANCHESTER.**—Mr. Yarwood recently gave a Concert at the Free Trade Hall, which was extremely successful. The programme consisted principally of vocal music, songs, and glees, which were well rendered by Miss Lydia Vernon, Miss Chadwick, and Mr. Ramsbottom, assisted by an efficient glee party. The concerted pieces deserving especial commendation were Henry Smart's charming trio "Queen of the night" (Miss Vernon, Miss Chadwick, and Mr. Ramsbottom); "The Lass of Richmond Hill," arranged as a part-song for male voices, by Mr. Yarwood, which was encored, and Bishop's elegant serenade "Sleep, gentle lady," this being particularly well given. Mr. George Julian Yarwood played a pianoforte solo; but the Oldham handbell ringers elicited the greatest amount of enthusiasm, being rapturously encored in both their performances. Mr. J. M. Ashworth efficiently sustained the post of accompanist, and Mr. Yarwood conducted.

**NEWPORT PAGNELL.**—On the 1st ult., the Members of the Amateur Musical Society, under the very able conductorship of Mr. R. W. Pringle, gave a Concert which afforded the most unqualified satisfaction to the audience. The band, led by Mr. Gunniss, played with the utmost precision and effect throughout the evening, especially in a selection from the *Messiah*, *Creation*, &c., which was arranged for the occasion by Mr. Gunniss. The chorus reflected the utmost credit upon the exertions of Mr. Pringle, who is to be much commended for his efforts to advance the cause of good music in this town. Mr. Pringle's powers as a composer were also successfully tested, a quartet and song of his being amongst the attractive items of the programme.

**PENZANCE.**—The members of the Penzance Choral Society gave a very fine performance of the *Messiah*, in the Corn

Exchange, on Tuesday evening, April 23rd, to a large and fashionable audience. The band was led by Mr. W. C. Hemmings. Conductor, Mr. J. H. Nunn, A.R.A.

**PENSNETT.**—On the evening of Tuesday, the 7th ult., a concert was given in the new schoolroom, under distinguished patronage. The band and chorus, numbering about 100 performers, gave their services gratuitously and consisted of the Pensnett and neighbouring choral unions. Mr. G. E. Perry (organist, Pensnett Church) presided at the piano and harmonium; Mr. S. Smith led the band; and Mr. H. J. Blunden (organist, parish church, Dudley), was the conductor. The first part was miscellaneous, and the second part was devoted to Professor Bennett's "May Queen," the performance of which was highly successful. We believe that a good sum will be realised by this concert for the church choir fund.

**PERTH.**—Dr. Hempel, who had been resident here for the last ten years, died on the 25th April last; and so highly was he esteemed and respected, that the members of the Perth Choral Union, and the Euterpean Society, both of which had been conducted by him, agreed to give a concert, not only as a mark of appreciation of his musical abilities, but with a desire partially to alleviate the position in which Mrs. Hempel and family are placed by this sudden bereavement. A very excellent programme was provided, in which Signor and Madame Garcia, Herr Arnold, and several amateurs took part; and we have every hope that the entertainment will prove of substantial benefit. Dr. Hempel was well known as an earnest student of music; and besides producing several psalm and hymn tunes, he was the composer of an oratorio called "The Seventh Seal," which was performed in Perth some years ago with much success.

**REIGATE.**—The Annual Concert of the Reigate Choral Society, under the patronage of the Countess Somers, was given on Tuesday evening, the 7th ult., on which occasion, Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" (*Lobgesang*) was performed, under the direction of the able conductor of the Society, Mr. Thurnam. Miss Edith Wynne and Mr. W. H. Cummings were the principal vocalists, and the orchestra was led by Mr. H. Blagrove. The whole performance was one of the most effective and successful ever given by the Society, and reflected the highest credit upon all concerned. The band and chorus were complete, and thoroughly efficient. The Hall was most numerously attended.

**SANDOWN, ISLE OF WIGHT.**—The Choral Society gave its second open rehearsal on the 2nd ult. The programme was varied and judiciously selected, and included several glees and choruses, which were exceedingly well given. The trio, "Hark, 'tis the Indian drum," the duet, "The Syren and Friar," and a song "Chloe," by Bache, were encored. Mr. F. G. Baker, organist of the parish church, conducted.

**STROUD.**—The Stroud Choral Society gave a performance of the Handel Festival Selection of 1862, as the closing concert of the season, on the 14th ult. The principal vocalists were Miss Banks, soprano, Madame Patey-Whytok, contralto, Mr. J. Kerr Gedge, tenor, and Mr. Brandon, bass. The band was not large, but well selected, and was led by Mr. J. Chew. It was assisted by an organ, specially erected for the occasion, by Mr. J. Deane, at which Mr. J. Frye presided. The chorus numbered upwards of 120, and had been well trained by Mr. E. Brind, of Highnam, who conducted on this occasion, in the absence, through indisposition, of Mr. Mann, the instructor of the class. The whole of the programme was performed with almost uniform success. The "Dead March," and the overture to "Samson," were splendidly played by the band; the principal singers were in good voice, and the choruses were remarkably well given. The attendance was large and fashionable, and the concert was in every respect highly satisfactory.

**SHEERNESS.**—A Concert was given here on the 13th ult., by Mr. E. T. Barling, organist of the church of Holy Trinity. The artists engaged were Madlle. Ida Gillies, Mr. Armes, basso, and Mr. Newsome, tenor, of Rochester Cathedral, with Mr. W. Hillman, member of the Trinity Church choir. The chorus was supported by about 50 members of the Sheerness Sacred Harmonic Society, with the valuable assistance of members from the Royal Artillery band, and of H.M.S. "Formidable." The programme consisted of selections from Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *Creation*, and Rossini's *Stabat Mater*. The choruses generally were well sung, and the orchestra was also extremely efficient. Mr. Barling must be congratulated upon the successful issue of his concert, as also upon the manner in which he has trained his choir. The concert was conducted by Mr. Barling.

**SOUTHSEA.**—A Concert was given by Mr. Godwin Fowles, organist of the parish church, Portsmouth, on the 2nd ult., chiefly for the purpose of introducing Mr. Sims Reeves. We need scarcely say that the popular tenor received quite an ovation from the audience, who called upon him most unmercifully to repeat almost everything that he sang. Several vocalists were also engaged, and Mr. Fowles's performance of some pianoforte pieces were heartily and deservedly applauded.

**SAINT IVES.**—On the 2nd ult., the last Concert of the Harmonic Society for the present season took place at the Corn Exchange, under the conductorship of Mr. Holloway. The choruses were exclusively selected from the works of Handel, and on the whole, were well given. In the account furnished us, we are told that the overture to "The Caliph of Bagdad," was much superior to that to "Samson," but whether this criticism applies to the compositions or to the execution of them, we are at a loss to determine.

There were several trios, duets, and solos during the evening, and a pianoforte performance by Mrs. Holloway appears to have been received with the utmost favour.

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS.**—The new organ recently erected in this church by Messrs. Walker, of London, at the sole cost of the Earl of Abergavenny, was formally opened on the 26th April. The services were choral throughout, the prayers being intoned by the Rev. — Fitzgerald, of Camden town. The choir, assisted by several members of the choir of Canterbury Cathedral, sang with great effect under the direction of Mr. Barnes. The regular organist, Mr. Philip Klitz presided at the organ, and fully and successfully tested its superior capabilities in a selection from the works of the great masters.

**WARRINGTON.**—The concert given by the Warrington Musical Society on the 2nd ult., was in every respect a very excellent one. In the first part, Mendelssohn's psalm, "As the hart pants," was sung in a style which could only have been acquired by constant and unremitting practice, and Mendelssohn's part-song, "Morning Prayer," was also given with the utmost delicacy and refinement. The programme was well selected, and in the second part we must mention Mr. Hiles's graceful part song, "To the morning wind," which was warmly encored. The solo vocalists were Miss Anna Hiles and Mr. Frank Elmore, both of whom acquitted themselves to the utmost satisfaction of the audience; and to the other attractions of the concert, we must add the very able organ solos of Mr. Walker, whose accompaniments to the vocal music were also in the highest degree satisfactory.

**WIMBORNE MINSTER.**—The Festival of Parish Choirs of the Wimborne district of the Salisbury Diocesan Choral Association, took place on Wednesday the 22nd ult., and was highly successful; 230 singers were present, and the execution of the music was remarkable for smoothness and purity of intonation throughout the service. Mr. Whitehead Smith ably presided at the organ, and in the afternoon gave a grand performance on the new organ lately rebuilt by Mr. Walker, of London, for the Minster.

**WHITBY.**—On Friday, the 10th ult., Mr. Dawson gave the first of a series of concerts in St. Hilda's Hall, to a highly respectable audience, the room being well and comfortably filled. Mr. Dawson's arrangements had been highly satisfactory, and the result was a powerful array of popular and accomplished artists. Mr. Inkersall, who is well known as a most spirited and effective tenor, was in excellent voice, and acquitted himself admirably in every part. Miss Blakely, a promising young vocalist, who made her first appearance in this town, sang sweetly and gracefully "On the cold shores," and "Cherry ripe," and the applause with which these, her maiden achievements, in Whitby, were welcomed, will probably lead to a repetition of her visit.

**ORGAN APPOINTMENTS.**—Mr. James Henry Pearson to Holy Trinity Church, Holmfirth.—Mr. G. E. Perry, to St. Mark's Church, Pensnett.—Mr. Henry James Elder to the Unitarian Church, Essex Street, Strand.—Mr. Charles J. Frost to the Parish Church of Westbury-on-Trym.—Mr. W. J. Cambridge to St. Paul's, Portland Square, Bristol.—Mr. T. L. Dermer to St. Stephen-the-Martyr's, Liverpool.—Mr. James Young to the Parish Church, Wilmslow, near Manchester.—Mr. S. B. Smith to the Parish Church, Great Grimsby, Lincolnshire.—Mr. Joseph Hewitt to St. John the Baptist, Bathwick.—Mr. Edward C. Colquhoun, to St. James' Church, Plumstead.—Mr. H. Columbine to the Parish Church, Warsop, Notts.

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